



P.O. BOX 14959
CINCINNATI, OH 45250
BBS (513) 887-9334

A Newsletter For
Atari Computer Users
By Atari Computer Users.

February 1, 1993

Volume 11. No. 2

Music Month!

This month's theme is music. Both the 8-bit Atari and the current ST/STE/TT/Falcon line excel with their music capabilities. The ST line also has two very special ports on the back for musicians. These are MIDI ports (yes, there used for something more than Midi Maze II). We would like to see everyone bring their systems (8-bit or ST) and show some of the musical capabilities of your system. We have quite a few members who are into MIDI and we hope they will bring some of their equipment in.

We also will hopefully have the new Atari Catalogs in for those members who ordered one last meeting. The cost is \$10 so please bring your money. The catalog is about 400 pages with about 500 entries featuring about 175 screen shots of programs for the ST/STE/TT/Falcon line of computers. We might have a few extras to sell at the meeting, but those who confirmed their order will get theirs first. If we can get 10 more people who want them Cin'tari can order another batch. Otherwise you can buy one direct from Atari for \$12.95 plus shipping and handling.

We have a few officer positions with openings. We need another Sergeant At Arms to aid Doug Ashton. This position is in charge of handling the door prizes and bringing the meeting to order. We also need a Hardcopy librarian. This person is in charge of all the newsletters and magazines our club has acquired over the years. You are responsible for making a list of everything we have and allowing members to check things out if they wish. Offer your support and volunteer for one of these positions!

MASTERING MESSAGES:

By: Dave Barker

Welcome to the second in a series of "how-to" articles on getting the most out of the Cin'tari BBS. Though geared for a beginner, even advanced users will hopefully find something they did not know.

This month's topic is the Message Base system. A Message Base (MB) is where public conversations between users occur via messages. This is a major portion of the BBS which many people don't take advantage of. Many of the MBs are crossnets (MBs tied together through the FNET), so the conversations there are between people from BBS's all across the nation. The MB topics cover all sorts of things, such as 8-bit, ST, For Sale, Tech help, DTP, Midi, Programming, Atari Explorer Online, Star Trek, etc. There are enough topics that anybody can find something to interest them!

The MBs are grouped into SIGS (broad topics). When you first enter the MB system, you will see a SIG Menu showing the topics. You select the number of the SIG you wish to enter. The next thing displayed will be a MB Selection Menu showing all of the MBs contained in the SIG you selected. Here you enter the number of the MB you desire to use. Then you can read and enter messages in that base. Using "O" at the "Msg Cmd" will bring back the MB Selection Menu so you can switch to another MB.

There are dozens of MBs for you to select from. It becomes tedious to manually switch between each MB you want to read. You can control what MBs you want to participate in
< Continued on Page 2 >

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Mastering Messages

Dracula- The Undead

Midi Revealed

Officer Ramblings

Cin'Tari Membership Application

Cin'Tari offers support for Atari computer users through meetings, disk libraries, BBS, and this newsletter.

If you would like to become a member just complete the below form and mail it along with a check or money order for \$20 to the address at the top of the newsletter.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone #

Computer(s)

during auto-scans. At the MB Selection Menu for each SIG you may select [T]oggle. It will then let you turn each MB on/off for auto-scan purposes. A "yes" marks a MB for reading, "no" ignores a MB. After you are done toggling, the MBs you are ignoring have a "-" next to them. Repeat this step for all of the SIGS. Note that at the SIG Menu you may also select [T]oggle. This allows you to ignore entire SIGS. If ignored, a SIG also shows "-" next to it. If you toggle off a SIG, it ignores all MBs inside it, whether they are toggled off or not!

Now that you have finished toggling the MBs, when you enter the MB system, you can use the auto-scans which will switch SIGS and MB for you as you finish with each one! At the SIG Menu, if you select [A]ll, you will forward read all new messages in your selected MBs in all SIGS. If you select [R]everse, it does the same thing but only reads messages from newest to oldest. If you select [F]lagged it will scan all SIGS for messages addressed to you. [C]lear will make it so the BBS thinks you have read every message in the system. Note that all the above commands if used at the MB Selection Menu will perform the same functions, but only affect the MBs in that particular SIG.

So now you can auto-scan MBs. During the scan, a "Read Msg Command:" will appear after each message. Here you give commands to control the scan. Use [N]ext or <cr> to read the next message. Picking "@" shows the same message again. Use [B]ack to reread the previous message. Picking [A]nswer will reply to the current message. Note, you can use "Z" to answer a message with the reply going in E-Mail so only that person will see it! You may also [E]dit and [D]elete messages you have entered.

If the message you are reading is a reply to an earlier message it will say <RE: ####>. If you want to read the earlier message, use "M" and it will show it to you. If there are already replies to the current message, it will say "Replies: #### ####". To immediately read the replies, use the "R" command. After reading the replies, you will be returned to the Next message in your scan.

Each message header shows the message number out of how many messages in that MB. This lets you know how many more messages you have left to read in the MB. There are several ways to move on to the next MB during a scan. If you read all new messages, it

moves on. If you [Q]uit, it will move on to next MB and any unread messages in the current MB will still be new for your next scan. If you use "J", its just like quitting, but all the unread messages are marked as read so you don't have to read them in your next scan. If you are in the middle of a scan and want to quit completely, "MENU" will return you to the BBS's Main Menu. Or "OFF" will log you off the BBS. (The last two work at ANY prompt of the BBS).

That covers some of the basics of the MB system. This is a huge topic and we'll cover some more nitty-gritty and short-cuts in the next installment. I hope to see more of you reading messages. And please don't be afraid to enter messages too. None of us bite! Its a great way to keep informed and make new friends. Try it, you'll like it!

Dracula- The Undead **By: Doug Ashton**

Lynx card (2 meg)
MSRP: \$39.95

In Dracula, you play the part of Jonathan Harker, an English solicitor, who has come to complete a business deal with Count Dracula. But you soon realize that the castle is a dangerous place. Its up to you to search the castle looking for secrets in order to escape the castle and to rid the world of Dracula.

The Game

Dracula- the Undead is a RPG (role playing game.) But unlike RPG's for the ST, Dracula is not as in depth, and will appeal to mystery as well as RPG fans.

The control method is very easy. Press 'B' to toggle between 'Joypad mode' and 'Text mode.' While in 'Joypad mode', pressing the pad will move Johnathan in the appropriate direction. In 'Text mode' you join a preset list of verbs with objects you are carrying, to preform tasks.

The graphic screens are detailed, while giving you a sense of the atmosphere by taking place in dimly lit rooms, at times a lantern will be needed in order to enter a room. The background soundtrack also gives you an erie feeling, which can be turned off by pressing 'option 2.' There are additional SFX for squeaky doors, drawers, screams and a continuing rain storm, plus several others. There are animated sequences that will give you information or take you further into the game.

Count Dracula's Castle has several rooms, secret passages, and many dangers (including three blood thirsty wives) that you must over come it order to complete your task. As you search the rooms you collect objects to use at a later time, including: keys, papers, a notebook, and money.

What is MIDI? **By: Scott Hively**

The fact that musical instruments finally started "conversing" has caused a revolution in the world of electronic music which started in the 1980's. Now, one instrument can say to another: "play middle C, with about 60% strength (volume), then play E4, a little louder". The second instrument "listens" to this dialogue, and plays the notes in turn, as long as it can understand the language used. The "language" that is now shared by almost all electronic musical instruments is called "MIDI", and we are going to be talking about MIDI at the February Cin'tari meeting.

MIDI is widely known as a "language between musical instruments". MIDI has expanded in such a short period of time, because it can be applied to many kinds of situations.

MIDI is a universal term. Although there are many different languages in the world, such as English, French, and so on, MIDI has only one language, and can therefore provide communication between Japanese and American instruments, or German and Italian instruments.

MIDI can be applied to many kinds of instruments. In this way it is possible for an electronic piano to "talk" to a synthesizer, or a drum machine.

This is where our beloved Ataris come into the picture. Even though the Atari is not considered a musical instrument, it does have two MIDI ports. One of these ports is marked "IN" and the other one "OUT". These allow your Atari to "Talk" to other equipment out it's "MIDI OUT" port and to listen to other instruments and computers through it's "MIDI IN" port.

One of the most powerful uses of MIDI is to include a sequencer. If all we are doing is making one instrument play what we play from another keyboard, we have some excellent possibilities, but our performance is still limited to what we can play on the one master keyboard. A sequencer on the other

hand, is capable of remembering several instrumental parts, making it possible to use a variety of sound sources. It then becomes a simple matter to construct an entire arrangement, or orchestration.

For example, a sequencer as the master can control a synth for melody, a piano for chords, another synth for bass, and a drum machine, all at the same time. The data for this 4 part performance is being stored in the sequencer. Then, as the data is sent to all 4 instruments, the automatic performance begins!

There are many programs for the Atari which can make the computer a sequencer or even allow you to edit the sounds that your synthesizer can make, and store them on disk.

TREASURER'S REPORT By: David Pennekamp

<i>Income</i>	
\$20.00	Membership
<i>Expenses</i>	
\$57.77	Newsletter
21.94	BBS Telephone Bill
46.50	PO Box Semi-annual fee
+11.60	Stamps
137.81	Total Expenses
<i>Petty Cash</i>	
\$30.16	Opening Balance
20.00	Income from membership
50.16	Total Petty Cash
<i>Checking account</i>	
\$657.30	Opening Balance
-137.81	Total expenses
519.49	Total Checking Account
<i>Assets</i>	
\$519.49	Checking Account
+50.16	Petty Cash
569.65	Total Cash Assets

Minutes: January 1993
By: Bill Addington
Theme: Communications

Sergeant at Arms, Doug Ashton, called the meeting to order at 3:45. President Mike Hill opened the meeting with a review of old business. The first topic was buying a new modem. Sys-Op Scott Hively presented a report on the options open to the club. First was that we can't really afford an "HST" modem. Second is a Supra V-32 which is not compatible with "HST" but will be standard within a year or two, price \$270.00. Third is to just get a 2400 baud modem compatible with "HST" protocol, price \$60.00. A vote was taken and it was decided to purchase a regular

2400 baud modem. Club positions open that need volunteers, Assistant Sergeant at Arms, also Hard Copy Librarian. If you are interested in either of these positions please see any club officer.

David Pennekamp delivered the treasurers report, which is in the January newsletter, total cash assets as of December 31, 1992 \$687.46. Dave also mentioned that we should think of some kind of fund raiser, as the last two auctions were a bust.

New business, Mike Hill stated that it looks as if the AIM magazine is going to fold, if not, don't look for another issue until summer. We have paid for one more issue and Mike will try to find out what the scoop is. The BBS has received its 10,000th caller, although it was not announced before hand, Tony McDonald won a years membership to the club (Congratulations Tony). Atari has a new catalog that is 400 color pages of application software by Atari and independent developers, including lots of European programs. If you want to get this catalog call Mike Hill If he can get enough orders to qualify for the users group rate of \$10.00 we will order another batch. Otherwise you can order directly from Atari for \$12.95.

A door prize of an AM-FM transistor radio, which was donated by Lanier Walker, was awarded to Ray Beck.

The meeting was adjourned at this point and demonstrations of communication software were presented. Stalker (Doug Ashton), Ratspft BBS (Mike Butler), Uniterm (Bill Addington). No vendors were present.

Cin'tari INFO

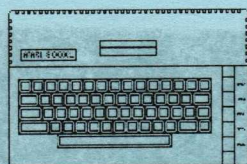
Copyright 1993, Cin'Tari, Inc., individual authors retain all rights to articles appearing in Cin'Tari Gazette. For items re-printed from other sources, contact the original publication unless otherwise noted. Articles contained in Cin'Tari Gazette may be reproduced in whole or in part by any other non-profit organization for non-commercial purposes. Acknowledgement should be given to Cin'Tari Gazette and original author. Send a copy of the re-print to Cin'Tari at the above address.

Cin'Tari is not affiliated with Atari, Inc. Any logos, trademarks, or any company names printed are either used with permission, or as an informal way of referring to a product, company, or organization.

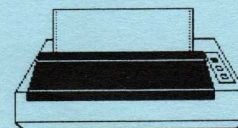
Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Gazette editorial staff, Cin'Tari Inc., its officers, or membership.

Membership in Cin'Tari is \$20.00 per year for individual or family memberships. Membership includes a subscription to Cin'Tari Gazette, complete access to the Cin'Tari BBS, and access to the Cin'Tari library. The Cin'Tari library consists of disks, tapes, cartridges, books, newsletters, and magazines. The library supports both 8 and 16 bit machines. Cin'Tari is strictly against software piracy and has no copyrighted material in the library.

A special thanks goes out to Soft-Logik for their donation of PageStream Ver. 1.8 that is used for the newsletter.



Repair of Atari Systems
Authorized Service Center
Atari and Star Printers
Atari Disk Drives
Call Lynn Sigler
752-0753



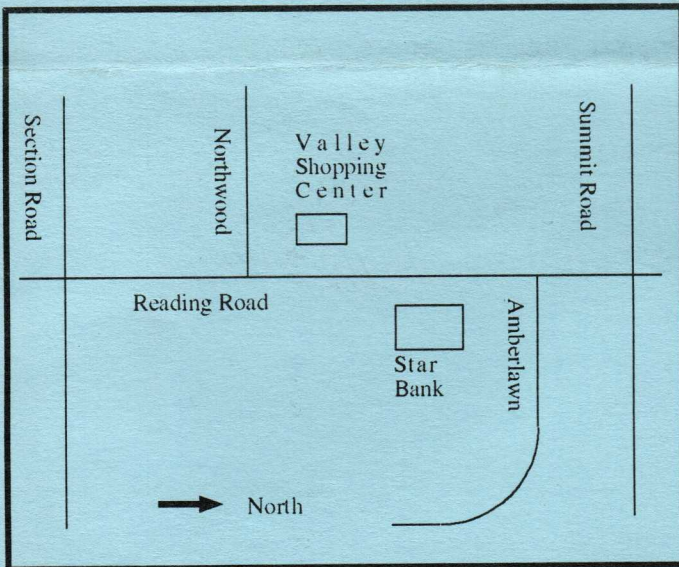
IMPORTANT DATES

SIG	WHERE	WHEN	WHO
Cin'Tari Meeting	7660 Star Bank, Roselawn	Feb. 13, 1993	N/A
ST Sig Meeting	1553 Buckboard Lane, Loveland	Feb. 19, 1993	Mike Hill: 722-2011
Communication Sig	6231 Orchard Lane	Feb. 24, 1993	Lanier Walker: 531-5091
Article Submissions	March Issue Deadline	Feb. 20, 1993	Mike Hill

Cin'Tari Meetings start at 3:30 PM. All sigs start at 7:30 PM
and will be held if there is demand. Call Mike or Lanier to check!

DEVELOPER AND DEALER INFO

Atari (Cust. Relations)	(408) 744-0880	Gadgets By Small	(303) 791-6098
Atari (Tech Support)	(408) 745-2004	Compo	(415) 355-0862
Rising Star Software	(513) 254-3160	ICD	(815) 968-2228
Codehead Technologies	(213) 386-5735	Missionware	(708) 359-9565
Gribnif	(413) 247-5620	Goldleaf Publishing	(415) 257-3515
ISD	(416) 479-1880	Fast Technology	(508) 475-3810
D.A. Brumleve	(217) 337-1937	WizWorks	(216) 539-5623
Step Ahead Software	(212) 627-5830	Clear Thinking	(313) 971-8671
Soft-Logik Publishing	(800) 892-8608	Music Code	(619) 469-7194
Wintertree Software	(613) 825-6721	Migraph	(800) 223-3729
Hisoft	+44 525 718181	Dragonware	(406) 265-7300
Oregon Research Assoc.	(503) 620-4919	Taylor Ridge Books	(203) 643-9673
Beckemeyer Develop.	(510) 530-9637	Fair Dinkum Tech.	(505) 662-7236
Barefoot Software	(818) 727-7143	Cybercube	(416) 882-0294



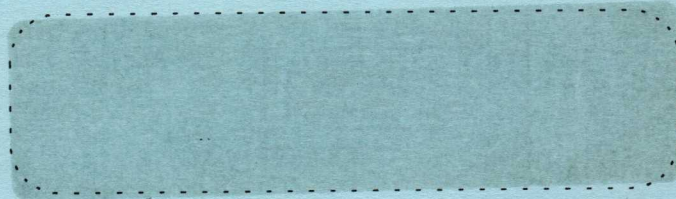
CIN'TARI OFFICERS

President: Mike Hill 722-2011
 1'st Vice-President: Scott Haynes 528-6693
 2'nd Vice-President: David Barker
 Secretary: William Addington
 Treasurer: David Pennekamp
 Sergeant at Arms: Doug Ashton
 Sergeant at Arms: Need volunteer
 Gazette Editor: Mike Hill
 8 bit Librarian: Ed Williams 941-5267
 ST Librarian: Bruce Rudesill
 Hard-Copy Librarian: Needed
 Cin'Tari BBS SYS-OP: Scott Hively
 Public Relations: John Jones 459-0742

CINCINNATI ATARI USERS GROUP
CINTARI

P.O. BOX 14959
CINCINNATI, OH 45250

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED



Cin'Tari meetings are held in the Basement of the Star Bank located at 7660 Reading
Road in Roselawn on the second Saturday of each month at 3:30pm.